

Christian Aid Week
9 – 15 May 2010

Prayers

(Choose between using our Formal prayers of intercession or our Interactive prayer stations.)

Formal prayers of intercession

Because we know you love everyone on your earth, we pray to you.
Because we know that all people deserve to live with dignity, we pray to you.
Because we know that the privilege of our birthplace has given us rights and comforts that others are denied, we pray to you.

And our prayer is this:

Move us to action.
Move us to real generosity.
Move us to bring in your Kingdom.

We see glimpses of your Kingdom in the cleaner alleyways of Kiambu, in the sanitation blocks built by Maji na Ufanisi, in the energy of Catherine Kithuku and Catherine Nyaata, in the footsteps of Christian Aid Week collectors.

[short silence]

We see spaces still longing for your Kingdom to come, in the streets of Matopeni, among the flying toilets and beds flooded with sewage, in the frustrated hopes of poor people everywhere, in our own hearts when we place our comfort and convenience above another's need.

[short silence]

Loving God, today, this week, this year, move us to bring in your Kingdom.
Amen

Interactive prayer stations

Use as many or as few as you wish.

1. Two new heavens

You will need:

- *paper and pens*
- *the following paragraph printed out as a sign*
- *(a print out of the lead story – 'Let's end poverty' – if you are using these stations on their own).*

'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth' (Revelation 21 v1).

Take a piece of paper. On one side write or draw what a new heaven and a new earth might mean for you. On the other side write or draw what a new heaven and a new earth might mean for Catherine Kithuku (in Matopeni) and Catherine Nyaata (in Kiambu) in Kenya.

2. Before and after

You will need:

- *print-outs of images of Matopeni and Kiambiu (available on the **Poverty – Let's End It DVD-rom**)*
- *the following paragraph printed out as a sign:*

Look at the pictures of Kiambiu and Matopeni. Use the differences in the pictures to give thanks for all that has been achieved in Kiambiu, and to pray for what needs to change in Matopeni.

3. Water blessings

You will need:

- *small cups of water*
- *the following paragraph printed out as a sign:*

Take a cup of water. Think through a normal day in your life and take a sip of water as you reflect on each different way that you use water.

If you still have water in your cup, think about how you use water on special occasions or on holiday and keep sipping.

When your cup is empty, look at the emptiness and imagine what your life would be like with extremely limited water. What would you prioritise? How would you cope?

Turn your thoughts into a prayer.

4. Psalm in your place

You will need:

- *a print out of Psalm 67*
- *the following paragraph printed out as a sign:*
'God is not God only in good times, or when you're having good things. God is God in all circumstances. When you are sick, God is there. Because God has given you life, he has given you air. Why should you not praise the Lord?'²

Everlyne Kithuku, Catherine's sister.

Imagine you live in Matopeni. You walk past flying toilets every day. Your bed sometimes floods with sewage. There is nowhere private or clean for you to go to the toilet. Now slowly read Psalm 67, as if you were still in Matopeni. What does it mean to praise God in those circumstances? Could you do it?

5. Poverty over?

You will need:

- *a sign with **Poverty** written on it in large letters*
- *paper, pens and Blu-Tack*
- *the following paragraph printed out as a sign:*

Can we eradicate poverty? On a piece of paper, write down one action that needs to be taken to reduce poverty – either by individuals or by governments.

Use Blu-Tack to stick your paper over part of the word 'Poverty', and read what others have written. Reflect on what needs to happen to make poverty disappear altogether.

6. Joy to come

Play the film '*Reflection – The Joy to Come*' in the background or screen this as a separate station.

Acknowledgements

Many of the quotes, prayers and stories contained in this service have been taken from the dialogue between the supporters and the Kenyans they visited. Our special thanks to these dedicated people for sharing their words with Christian Aid and its other supporters this year:

1. Catherine Kithuku, Community activist, Matopeni settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.
2. Everlyne Kithuku, Catherine's sister, Matopeni settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.
3. Jeremiah Muli, Student, Matopeni settlement in Nairobi, Kenya
4. Catherine Nyaata, Community activist, Kiambiu settlement in Nairobi, Kena.
5. Sue Burston, Christian Aid Week organiser in Wooler, Northumberland.
6. Alison Clarke, chair of Christian Aid committee, Worcester.
7. Rosalind McLaughlin, Christian Aid representative from Holywood, Northern Ireland.
8. Rev Nan Wyn Powell-Davies, Christian Aid supporter from Mold, north Wales.
9. Pastor Delroy Powell, Christian Aid supporter from Tooting, South London.
10. Anthony Vennelle, Christian Aid Week organiser in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The other elements of this service were written and compiled by Jenny Ayres, Liz Baddaley, Laura Bardwell, Pippa Durn and Kate Tuckett. Special thanks also to CompassionArt for their partnership in Christian Aid Week 2010.

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UK charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525

Northern Ireland charity number XR94639 Company number NI059154

Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998 Company number 426928